ers of power. A score of workers from various Petrograd factories rose in court to defend Bramson. The mood of the crowd in the courtroom was such that the jury could not send the defendant back to jail and was forced to release him. Emma was confident that if I had a public trial, mass deputations of factory workers and soldiers would come to my defense.

The Commissar of Justice also realized that to try me in public would humiliate the government. Sidetracking the matter of a trial, he tried to persuade Emma that the wrath of the people against me was so strong that the soldiers in the fortress would tear me to pieces if they saw me go free. Emma replied, "Nothing will happen to my husband unless you incite the mob to violence as you did against Shingarev and Kokoshkin. Hand me the order for his release, and I shall not have the slightest worry about the fortress garrison." The Commissar felt insulted and refused to talk with her any longer, but finally decided to add my name to the list of prisoners to be released from the fortress. Emma met me at the gate of the dungeon. The court was full of soldiers. They looked at us—some with curiosity, others with indifference. None showed any inclination to tear us to pieces.

I found Petrograd in a state of panic and chaos. All government offices were on strike. Economic conditions were deteriorating day by day. The city was flooded with paper money, prices were soaring, unrest was mounting in workers' quarters. If elections to a new Soviet had been held at that time, the moderate Socialists would have obtained a majority. Only the soldiers and sailors were supporting the new regime. Thousands of enlisted men from Kronstadt and the Baltic fleet had settled in the capital, and one saw sailors' uniforms everywhere. The city was also crowded with deserters from all parts of the front, in ragged uniforms, without insignia.

The People's Commissars showered the country with decrees. Some of these reiterated the decrees of the Provisional Government—abolishing class discrimination, repealing restrictions on religious and national minorities, and so on; others held out promises for the future—nationalization of heavy industry, mining, banking, and foreign trade; repudiation of foreign debts of the Tsarist government. People did not seem to expect much from these promises. The new foreign policy was a bitter disappointment. The German High Command treated Russia as a defeated enemy after unconditional surrender. It bluntly announced that Russia was to be dismembered; Poland and the Baltic provinces were to become "independent" states under the control of Germany—actually, German colonies. Turkey was to receive a slice of the Caucasus. Germany was to control the foreign trade and foreign policy of truncated Russia.

All this was a heavy blow to the prestige of the government, which